(c) and (d) No, Sir. The cost of production of unclear power is comparable to thermal generation away from coalmines. The hydropower in the country is location specific and mostly for peak load needs.

(e) and (f) Nuclear power reactors are being operated at high availability factors as to yield about normative capacity factor.

(g) Reducing the input costs, adopting depreciation rates consistent with expected life of the plants, discontinuation of Renovation and Modernisation and Research and Development levies and pre payment of high interest bearing loans have resulted in reduction of the cost of production of nuclear power. The average generation traiff has come down from 255 paise/kWh in the year 2003-04 to 226 palse/kWh in the year 2004-05.

Outcome of the Meeting of I.A.E.A.

408. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that allowing inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will seriously compromise the quantity and scope of ongoing research;

(b) if so, whether Government have put forward this point during the recently held meeting of IAEA; and

(c) if so, the response received in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. No IAEA inspections are being carried out in any of the R&D institutions in India.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Russian Uranium for Tarapur Plant

409. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russia has agreed to supply low enriched uranium for the atomic power plant at Tarapur; and

(b) if so, by when are they likely to do so?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Matter is under discussion.

Atomic power generation

†410. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that atomic energy accounts for very little in the total power generation of the country;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor and the status of India in comparison to the other countries in the field of power generation from the atomic energy;

(c) whether the atomic power plants in the country are not efficient enough; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Government to increase the generation of atomic energy in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Nuclear energy is around 3% of the total electricity generation in the country.

(b) India is pursuing a three stage nuclear power programme aimed at long term energy independence based on use of our abundant Thorium resources. In order to realise this goal we are well into the first stage based on our modest domestic Uranium resources. This will be followed by second stage comprising of fast reactors which can support a large power generation capacity before getting into the third stage. This sequential technology development and implementation to be done in a technology restrictive regime is the main reason for the present low level of total power generation using atomic energy. Nuclear power is a significant contributor of electricity in advanced countries, accounting for 78% in France, 31% in Germany, 29% in Japan and 20% in USA. Its share in developing countries with a nuclear power programme is comparable to that of India: it is 3% in Brazil and 2.2% in China.

(c) The atomic power plants in the country are very efficient.

(d) Does not arise.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.